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IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A compact, fiber reinforced rod for optical cables comprising:
a plurality of elongated fiber members encased in a matrix of a UV curable cured vinyl ester resin material; and
an outer topcoat layer substantially surrounding said plurality of elongated fiber members matrix.
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2. (original) The reinforced rod of claim 1, wherein said elongated fiber members comprises an E-type glass fiber member.
3. (original) The reinforced rod of claim 1, wherein said elongated fiber members comprises an S-type glass fiber member.
4. (original) The reinforced rod of claim 1, wherein said elongated fiber members are selected from the group consisting of E-type glass fiber members, an S-type glass fiber members, and combinations thereof.
5. (original) The reinforced rod of claim 1, wherein said elongated fiber members are selected from the group consisting of E-type glass fiber members, S-type glass fiber members, high strength synthetic strands of poly(p-phenylene-2,6-benzobisoxazole) fiber members, and combinations thereof.
6. (currently amended) The reinforced rod of claim 1, wherein said UV curable cured vinyl ester resin material is selected from the group consisting of Vinch 500 and 17-41B UV cured vinyl ester resin, both manufactured by Zeon Technologies.

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7. (original) The reinforced rod of claim 1, wherein said outer topcoat layer comprises a polybutylene terephthalate/polyether glycol copolymer material.

8. (original) The reinforced rod of claim 1, wherein said outer topcoat layer comprises an ethylene acrylic acid copolymer material.

9. - 22. (canceled)

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Cont

23. (new) The reinforced rod of claim 1, wherein said plurality of fibers comprising:

a plurality of E-type glass roving fibers; and
a plurality of S-type glass roving fibers.

24. (new) The reinforced rod of claim 23, wherein said plurality of fibers further comprises a plurality of high strength synthetic strand members.

25. (new) The reinforced rod of claim 23, wherein said plurality of fibers further comprises a plurality of high strength aramid strands.

26. (new) The reinforced rod of claim 24, wherein said plurality of fibers further comprises a plurality of polyphenylene terephthalate strand members.

27. (new) The reinforced rod of claim 1, wherein said plurality of fibers comprises:

a plurality of E-type glass roving fibers;
a plurality of S-type glass roving fibers; and
a plurality of high strength aramid strands.

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28. (new) The reinforced rod of claim 1, wherein said plurality of fibers comprises:

- a plurality of E-type glass roving fibers;
a plurality of S-type glass roving fibers; and
a plurality of high strength polyphenylene terephthalate strands.
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